Please add the following new claims 111-113.

--111. (New) The DNA construct designated pETB2360210.

112. (New) An isolated and purified superantigen toxin DNA fragment encoding Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) in which at least one amino acid of amino acid positions 40-50 of SEB and at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of amino acid positions 18-28, 55-65, 62-72, 84-94, 86-96, 89-99, 110-120 and 205-215 of SEB have been altered such that binding of said encoded SEB to the MHC class II receptor and T cell antigen receptor is altered.

113. (New) The DNA fragment of claim 112, which encodes SEB in which the amino acids in positions 40-50, 84-89 and 89-99 have been altered. --

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

With the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 12-14, 18, 21-23, 29-31, 37-39, 43, 44, 47-49, 53, 56-58, 62, 65-67 and 111-113 are pending. By the above amendments, we have amended claim 1 to state that the alterations of SEB includes at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of amino acid positions 40-50, 62-67, 84-89 and 110-120 of SEB, and at least one amino acid of amino acid positions 18-28, 55-65, 86-96, 89-99, and 205-215 of SEB. Support for this amendment can be found on page 19, line 22 through page 21, line 17 of the specification, which states that

> The residues which can be altered can be within 5 amino acid residues of the central leucine of the hydrophobic loop (such as L45 of SEB), **or** within 5 residues of the amino acid residues of the polar binding pocket that can contact HLA-DR, (such as E67, Y89, or Y115 of SEB). . . . **In addition**, side chains of certain nonconserved receptor-binding surfaces, can also be altered when